



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1363/1
ZDW:jld

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 280

July 8, 2015 – Introduced by Representatives WEATHERSTON, BOWEN, BRANDTJEN, E. BROOKS, CRAIG, KULP, T. LARSON, OHNSTAD, QUINN, STEFFEN, TITTL and BALLWEG, cosponsored by Senator HANSEN. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 341.15 (1g) of the statutes; **relating to:** enforcement of the
2 display of motor vehicle registration plates.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, if two registration plates are issued for a motor vehicle, one plate must be attached to the front of the vehicle and one plate must be attached to the rear of the vehicle. This bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from stopping or inspecting a type 1 automobile having a registered weight of 8,000 pounds or less (generally, lightweight passenger vehicles) solely because no plate is attached to the front of the automobile or because a plate attached to the front of the automobile cannot be seen. This bill does not prohibit a law enforcement officer from issuing a citation for failure to attach two plates to the automobile if the violation is observed in the course of a stop or inspection made for other purposes.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 341.15 (1g) of the statutes is created to read:
4 341.15 (1g) Notwithstanding s. 349.02, a law enforcement officer may not stop
5 or inspect a type 1 automobile having a registered weight of 8,000 pounds or less
6 solely because no plate is attached to the front of the automobile, or because a plate

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1 attached to the front of the automobile cannot be readily seen and read, unless a
2 municipality has elected not to attach a plate to the rear of the automobile under sub.
3 (1) (b). This subsection does not limit the authority of a law enforcement officer to
4 issue a citation for a violation of sub. (1) or (2) or a local ordinance in conformity with
5 sub. (1) or (2) observed in the course of a stop or inspection made for other purposes.

6 **SECTION 2. Initial applicability.**

7 (1) This act first applies to type 1 automobiles operated on the effective date
8 of this subsection.

9 (END)